

Edoardo Maria Ponti

Curriculum Vitae



Professional Experience

- Aug 2022 - now **Assistant Professor, Natural Language Processing, University of Edinburgh.**
- Oct 2022 - now **Affiliated Lecturer, University of Cambridge.**
- Jun 2024 - Jun 2025 **Visiting Professor, NVIDIA.**
- Apr 2022 - Jul 2022 **Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar, Stanford University.**
- Oct 2020 - Jul 2022 **Postdoctoral Fellow, Mila – Quebec AI Institute and McGill University.**
- Jul 2019 - Sep 2019 **AI / ML Research Intern, Apple, Cupertino.**

Education

- Oct 2016 - Sep 2020 **PhD, Computational Linguistics, University of Cambridge.**
Supervisors: Prof. Anna Korhonen and Dr. Ivan Vulić.
Thesis: *Inductive Bias and Modular Design for Sample-Efficient Neural Language Learning.*
Student of St John's College.
- Oct 2014 - Jul 2016 **Master, Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, University of Pavia.**
Thesis: *Identifying Causal Relations between Events with Artificial Neural Networks.*
110/110 with distinction and publication recommended (extremely rare).
Student of Collegio Ghislieri. Erasmus exchange: University of Cambridge.

Grants

- Jul 2025 **ERC Starting Grant, €1.5M.**
Project: *Adaptive Tokenization and Memory in Foundation Models for Efficient and Long-Horizon AI.* Recipients: me (PI).
- Mar 2025 **ARIA Scaling Compute, £2M.**
Project: *Tracking Evolving AI Compute.* Recipients: me (PI), Nick Brown, Adrian Jackson, Boris Grot, Wenda Li, Luo Mai, and Aaron Zhao.
- Oct 2022 **Edinburgh Laboratory for Integrated Artificial Intelligence, £100K.**
Project: *Gradient-based Learning of Complex Latent Structures* (ongoing)
Recipients: Pasquale Minervini, Antonio Vergari, and me (co-PI).
- Mar 2019 **Google Faculty Research Award, \$61K.**
Project: *Automatic Induction and Adaptation of Syntactic Structures for Improved Cross-Lingual NLP* (funded the 4th year of my PhD)
Recipients: Anna Korhonen (PI), Roi Reichart, Ivan Vulić, and me (principal scientist).

Gifts

- Dec 2025 **NVIDIA gift**, 32K A100 GPU-Hours, Project: *Permanent Memory in Transformers via Logarithmic Growth*.
- Sep 2025 **Google DeepMind gift**, \$90K funds and \$100 Gemini credits, Project: *Multicultural Evaluation of World Models*.
- Jan 2025 **NatWest gift**, £200K, Project: *Expressive Multi-token Prediction*.

Awards

- July 2025 **2 Highlights Awards**, ACL 2025.
Papers: *The Cross-linguistic Role of Animacy in Grammar Structures and Mixtures of In-Context Learners*
- July 2023 **Candidate for Best Paper Award**, ACL 2023.
Paper: *Efficient Transformers with Dynamic Token Pooling*
- Oct 2021 **Best Paper Award**, EMNLP 2021.
Paper: *Visually Grounded Reasoning across Languages and Cultures*
- Aug 2019 **Best Paper Award**, Repl4NLP 2019.
Paper: *Specializing Distributional Vectors of All Words for Lexical Entailment*
- Feb 2022 **IVADO Postdoctoral Fellowship**.
- Feb 2021 **ETH Zurich AI Centre Postdoctoral Fellowship**, (declined).
- Jun 2017 **Parsons Fund**, St John's College, University of Cambridge.
- Jun 2017 **Robert Soley Award**, St John's College, University of Cambridge.
- Dec 2016 **Young Researcher Best Paper Award**, 3rd Italian Conference of Computational Linguistics.
- 2016 **Self-placed Fulbright Scholarship**, (declined).
- Sep 2011 - Jul 2016 **Institute for Advanced Study Scholarship**, University of Pavia.
- 2014 **Collegio Ghislieri Scholarship**, University of Pavia.
Best student in contest.

Teaching Experience

Lecturer

- 2022 - 2024 **Accelerated Natural Language Processing**, University of Edinburgh.
Nominated twice as best course for Informatics by the Students' Association.

Guest Lecturer

- Feb 2022 **Computational Linguistics**, University of Cambridge.
- Feb 2022 **Natural Language Understanding with Deep Learning**, McGill University.
- Supervisor
- Oct 2017 - May 2020 **Computational Linguistics**, University of Cambridge.

- Demonstrator
Oct 2017 - May 2018 **Machine Learning and Real-world Data**, University of Cambridge.
Main PhD Supervisor
PhDs, Piotr Nawrot, Nina Gregorio, Osman Batur İnce, Farid Adilazuarda.
Summer Schools
Jul 2017 **Generative Lexicon: Integrating Theoretical and Distributional Methods**, Materials for the course at ESSLLI 2017.
Tutorials
Dec 2024 **Dynamic Sparsity in Machine Learning**, Tutorial at NeurIPS 2024 with André Martins.
May 2022 **Natural Language Processing for Multilingual Task-Oriented Dialogue**, Tutorial at ACL 2022.

Conference Organisation

- 2024 **Workshop on Efficiency in Generative AI, GAIL, Edinburgh**.
2022 **Workshop on Multilingual Multimodal Learning**, ACL 2022.
2019 - 2021 **Workshop on Research in Computational Typology and Multilingual NLP (SIGTYP)**, co-located with *ACL conferences between 2019 and 2025.
Oct 2018 - Dec 2019 **Cambridge LTL Seminar Series**, coordinator.
Oct 2019 **Conference ‘Science, Policy, and the Public’**, St John’s College.
Feb 2019 **St John’s College Graduate Symposium**, University of Cambridge.
Dec 2014 **Conference ‘Compter, Parler, Soigner: Between Linguistics and Artificial Intelligence’**, Collegio Ghislieri.

Service

- 2023 - 2024 **Member of the Regent House**, University of Cambridge.
2023 - 2024 **Coordinator of NLP Curriculum Review**, University of Edinburgh.
Publicity/Sponsorship Chair, CoNLL 2018.
Program Co-Chair Assistant, ACL 2019.
Editor, TACL, *ACL Rolling Review*.
Reviewer and Area Chair, ACL, (twice **Outstanding Reviewer**), EMNLP, NAACL, EACL, *SEM, AAAI, NeurIPS, ICML, Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Engineering, Language Resources and Evaluation.
Co-founder and Committee Member, ACL Special Interest Group on Typology (SIGTYP).
Scholar of ELLIS, European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems.